

In response to that Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 35 and 46-50 to read as follows. For the Examiner's convenience, all of the pending claims in this application, including those not amended herein, are set forth below.

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35. (Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:  
an image forming member adapted to form an image; and  
pulse-width modulation means for generating a pulse-width modulation signal in accordance with an image signal,  
wherein said pulse-width modulation means generates the pulse-width modulation signal by counting pulses of a first clock signal in accordance with the image signal, and  
wherein the first clock signal is generated by reading data from storage means which stores output pattern data of the first clock signal, and the reading of data from said storage means is performed by outputting data corresponding to the pattern data from a plurality of flip-flops connected in series, the flip-flops latching the pattern data of the first clock signal, and wherein the first clock signal has a non-uniform periodic time.

36. (Not Changed From Prior Version) The image forming apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the storage means stores the pattern data of the first clock signal as digital data.

37. (Not Changed From Prior Version) The image forming apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the first clock signal has an output pattern for correcting an image signal and generating a pulse width modulation signal in accordance with a characteristic of said image forming member.

38. (Not Changed From Prior Version) The image forming apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the first clock signal has an output pattern for releasing or relieving a state of gamma correction for an input image signal.

39. (Not Changed From Prior Version) The image forming apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said image forming member comprises a plurality of devices for forming an image by light emission, arranged in a matrix.

40. (Not Changed From Prior Version) The image forming apparatus according to claim 39, wherein in said plurality of devices arranged in a matrix, a device of the plurality of devices to be driven is sequentially selected by each row, and the devices in the selected row are controlled by the pulse-width modulation signal.

41. (Not Changed From Prior Version) The image forming apparatus according to claim 39, wherein at least one of the plurality of devices causes a light emitting member to emit light by emitting electrons, so as to form an image.

42. (Not Changed From Prior Version) The image forming apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said image forming member emits electrons to emit a light from a light emission member, so as to form an image.

43. (Not Changed From Prior Version) The image forming apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the device is a surface-conduction type emission device.

44. (Not Changed From Prior Version) The image forming apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the device is a Field Emission (FE) type electron emission device.

45. (Not Changed From Prior Version) The image forming apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the device is an Metal/Insulator/Metal (MIM) type electron emission device.

46. (Amended) An electron beam apparatus comprising:  
an electron beam source; and

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cont

pulse-width modulation means for generating a pulse-width modulation signal to control electron emission,

wherein said pulse-width modulation means generates the pulse-width modulation signal by counting pulses of a first clock signal in accordance with an input signal, and

wherein the first clock signal is generated by reading output pattern data from storage means which stores the output pattern data of the first clock signal, and the reading of the output pattern data from said storage means is performed by outputting data corresponding to the pattern data from a plurality of flip-flops connected in series, the flip-flops latching the pattern data of the first clock signal, and wherein the first clock signal has a non-uniform periodic time.

47. (Amended) A modulation circuit comprising:

a pulse-width modulation circuit generating a pulse-width modulation signal;

and

a plurality of flip-flops connected in series,

wherein said pulse-width modulation signal is generated by counting pulses of a first clock signal in accordance with an input signal, and

wherein the first clock signal is generated by reading output pattern data from storage means which stores the output pattern data of the first clock signal, and the reading of the output pattern data from the storage means is performed by outputting data

corresponding to the pattern data from said plurality of flip-flops, the flip-flops latching the pattern data of the first clock signal, and wherein the first clock signal has a non-uniform periodic time.

48. (Amended) A method for driving an image forming apparatus comprising an image forming member which forms an image and pulse-width modulation means for generating a pulse-width modulation signal in accordance with an image signal, said method comprising the step of:

generating the pulse-width modulation signal by counting pulses of a first clock signal in accordance with the image signal, wherein the first clock signal is generated by reading output pattern data from storage means which stores the output pattern data of the first clock signal, and the reading of the output pattern data from the storage means is performed by outputting data corresponding to the pattern data from a plurality of flip-flops connected in series, the flip-flops latching the pattern data of the first clock signal, and wherein the first clock signal has a non-uniform periodic time.

49. (Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a clock generator including a plurality of serially-coupled flip-flops that are operable as shift registers for sequentially outputting data forming a clock signal from said clock generator, the clock signal having a non-uniform periodic time;